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**PEACE MOVES, AND THE SENATE**

The foreign relations of the United States are not, under the Constitution, reposed in a committee composed of the Senate, the President, and the Secretary of State. They are in the hands of the President, who conducts them through the State Department. The Senate is required to ratify treaties, but it does not negotiate them.

Senatorial interposition in such a matter as the President's peace effort, if it were established as a rule of conduct, would make it impossible for our Government to play the part of a real government in such affairs. That is perfectly apparent. The case of the Gore and McLeure resolutions illustrated perfectly the danger of Congressional interference with such affairs. There is no surer way to bring our Government into the contempt of foreign nations than this amateurish interference by the legislature with business that belongs to the Executive. Congress is worse than wasting its time whenever it undertakes to intrude into a realm where its very character and organization make it incapable of effective participation.

**THE UNKIND G. B. S.**

George Bernard Shaw has delivered to these United States the unkindest cut of all—if he will pardon the quotation from an author he considers mediocre. Other Englishmen, Irishmen, and Continentals have come over for a few weeks, and their verdict has not always been favorable. But Shaw declines to come at all—and assails us like some! He won't come, crowning thrust, because we are too moral. He fears he will shock us! Oh, say now, as they don't say in Ireland, isn't that piling it on rather thick? We've been reading Shaw, many of our little groups of serious thinkers have graduated from him, and knowingly term him rather shallow. We've been kinder to him than London has been. Why, we've even been reading Samuel Butler, largely on his and Arnold Bennett's indorsement, and do you know, the paradoxes of both Butler and Shaw have already set many to searching the New Testament for traces of strangely reminiscent statements. A few have been iconoclastic enough to assert that Messrs. Shaw and Butler both modeled some of their epigrams from a certain Great Teacher, founder of denominations they assail.

Maybe G. B. S. has heard about that New York Society for the Suppression of Vice. Why, that society hasn't suppressed any vice. It operates, as Don Marquis and Theodore Dreiser could tell him, on works of art it does not understand. That is all. If it hasn't paid Mr. Shaw the compliment of suppressing him yet, why, there is yet time. "Getting Married," his play recently set forth in New York, may need some such impetus. But, of course, the pious not produced on the stage, so that ought to be some excuse.

Come on over, Mr. Shaw, the immorality—the "un-morality," as some prefer to call it—is fine. New York, aside from its cabarets and summer girl shows, may be rather strait-laced. But why not try Boston, or Indianapolis, or Los Angeles—any of these places affords free field and leave to print for all the academic immorality you desire to expound.

**CHEAPER FOODS BY EXPLORATION**

David Fairchild, down at the Agricultural Department, who already has qualified as a horticultural and botanical Shackleton, advances the idea that we ought to go exploring for cheaper foods. The only possible answer echoes spontaneously, "Why not?"

Some of Dr. Fairchild's young men already have gone into the heart of South America—which is quite as heart-fel as Africa—and there rescued from their native abundance certain plants and fruits that could be cultivated here.

Edible exploration isn't copyrighted by the Department of Agriculture either. Secretary Redfield had been known to sample strange foods in his own home, try them on the journalistic dogs at the Press Club, then recommend them to the country at large. In the case of the tile fish, that food originally introduced by Mr. Redfield as a living cost reducer, soon became so popular that it outranked other sorts of fish in the market quotations.

Why send our explorers to the North Pole, anyway? All they bring back from there are Congressional

investigations. Send them to South America, as Dr. Fairchild wisely suggests, and they may bring back food. There are animals down there, too, according to Colonel Roosevelt, which will bear study and eating, and the explorers need not pause over the rivers of doubt.

**THE UNBASED FEARS OF THE ENTENTE**

The London Morning Post falls into an error, of which there has been other evidence, in assuming that there is danger of the United States trying to stop the war by shutting off the export of war supplies to the entente powers. It issues a warning to the United States that such a course, taken in the midst of war, would amount to a breach of neutrality.

British and French agencies in this country ought to be doubtful to know that there is no longer danger of this country assuming such an attitude. It is true that there are two classes of people, both of them considerable in numbers, that would applaud such a move. There are the sentimental pacifists who are perfectly sincere in their belief that it is wrong to send war material abroad; who appealingly urge that the United States ought not to contribute anything to perpetuate such a horror as the world war. These have no ulterior motive, and no information to which reasoning about such technical matters as neutrality may hope to appeal.

The other class who would indorse a sweeping embargo, are those who want the central empires to win the war. These two classes are, in general, antagonistic in about everything save their agreement that this country should quit supplying people means to fight; and the realization of this fact has been responsible in the last year for a great many of the former group changing their attitude. There is today a clearer perception of the truth about this whole matter, than there was at an early stage of the war.

In recent months, because of some unfortunate things that were said and written during the Presidential campaign, the entente nations have displayed some misgivings over the possibility of "freak legislation" of some sort in this country. Probably their misgivings have not been ameliorated by the President's peace efforts, so-called, though a better understanding of those efforts is beginning to be noted in the comments of press and public abroad. The Europeans are coming to understand that the President's identic note was an identic note in rather a formal manner; its intent was to convey to the central nations a realization that this country was nearing the end of its patience with them. Germany hailed the note as pro-German in effect; the allies received it as likely, whether intended or not, to aid Germany's efforts for a peace at the time most auspicious for Germany. But in the last few days it has been evident that the Germans are less pleased and the western nations less displeased with the American utterance. It is better understood and more accurately appraised. Secretary Lansing was not, in his first note of explanation, giving warning that this country is on the verge of war with the allies; very obviously, he had the central group in mind; and nobody with a worth-while understanding of sentiment in this country could believe anything else.

The joint numbers and influence of all the elements which would favor embargoes by this country, are insufficient to justify any fears of such a policy being adopted. This country is not going to make so egregious a blunder; it is not going to make it, because the great majority of Americans have wobbled right on this question. We have done some muddling, ourselves; but the British nation ought to be charitable. It knows all about that process of getting on.

It is needless for English newspaper to "warn" this country, because this country needs no warning. It is not going to do anything so foolish or so incorrect as the London Morning Post fears. If there had ever been a chance to pass embargo legislation, it would have passed long ago. There is not the ghost of a chance, and the British press and public ought to be well enough informed to understand that fact.

**"MADCAP" JOURNALISTS**

From the New York World:  
If women's right to the suffrage is based upon knowledge of government and a capacity to exercise it, why was a committee of the New York Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage sent to Washington yesterday to demand of the President a thing not within his power?

The President has no more to do with the amendment of the Constitution than the Chief Justice or the marshal of the District of Columbia. He can neither assent nor dissent. If two-thirds of the members of both houses of Congress see fit to submit an amendment to the States, the President is not consulted at any stage of the proceedings.

The World is perfectly correct, and also entirely mistaken. The Constitution doesn't make the President a figure in the business of constitutional amendment. There are two ways of accomplishing that end:

**Here and There In the News**

About this time of the year, for years before he died, Booker Washington would send out from Tuskegee a brief statement of the lynching record in the United States for the preceding twelve months. That was a wholesome service, and under Washington's successor, Major Moton, the practice is being continued.

**Lynching in 1916**

In 1916 there were fifty-four lynchings in the United States, and, counting "bleeding Kansas" as a Southern State for convenience, every one of these lynchings took place in the South, and with four exceptions every one of the persons lynched was a negro. Seventy-seven per cent of those put to death were charged with other offenses than that which has been called "the unpardonable crime." One of the victims of the mob was lynched for slapping a boy, another for brushing against a girl in the street, and others for offenses which would have been punished ordinarily, if punished at all, by small fines or brief imprisonment. To their credit be it said there were no lynchings in Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland, and the name of not a single Northern, Eastern, or Western State, with the exception of Kansas, appears in the record.

**For Minor Offenses**

When the practice of lynching first began it was defended on the ground that it afforded the only effective means of preventing acts of personal violence against women, and there was a strong feeling that for this offense there should be no more mercy shown than would be shown to mad dogs at large in the community; but, as the record every year has shown, the mob extended its operations so that for the most trivial offenses the death penalty has been visited upon the helpless victims of the mob, as, for example, some years ago when a negro man and woman were put to death in one of the Southern States for stealing a Bible from the pulpit in a country Lutheran church. A few responsible men and newspapers in the South have denounced these barbarous acts; but the evil work has gone on until the whole civilization of the South has been smirched by the barbarities of the mob—not the civilization of the negro, but, let the emphasis be placed where it belongs, the civilization of the white people.

The administration and execution of the laws in all the Southern States are in the undisputed possession of the white people. In the State of Georgia, for example, where fourteen lynchings, or one-fourth of the total lynchings for the year occurred, the governor and all the State officers; the prosecuting attorneys and sheriffs and constables and juries are all white. A negro guilty of the "unpardonable crime" would have had no more chance of escape from the death penalty than a cat in Mexico; yet fourteen men were lynched by the mob in this State last year. The negro is not only a victim of the mob, but he is also a victim of the mob, and the state and the church and good men and women let the thing go on from year to year without any effective voice or act against a condition which would degrade even "Darkest Africa."

**The White South Responsible**

In the statement sent out from Tuskegee the lynching evil is noted as possibly having a very distinct bearing on the migration of the negro to the North; but it is far more serious than that. If the negroes want to go North, or East, or West, let them go—this is a free country; but the trouble is far deeper than the movement of one element of the population from one part of the country to another. It lies at the very root of good government, it affects the integrity and law-abiding character of the white people—the mobs almost invariably are composed of white men and the responsibility for lynching cannot be unloaded on the victims of the mob and the people from whom the mob is drawn. It is a responsibility which belongs to the white people, and the South being in the saddle in national affairs, and the South, speaking frankly, is the white South. However, it may be in the nation the white South is certainly in the saddle in the South, and for its own sake, and on its own account put down the mob and exalt the law.

**General Jackson Was "Likely"**

In a little while the anniversary of Andy Jackson, Patron Saint of the Democracy, and particularly that part of the Democracy which holds to the doctrine that "to the victors belong the spoils," will be celebrated with imposing ceremonies in all parts of the country where the officeholders are keeping the faith, and a little story told by Mr. Boyden, of Salisbury, N. C., will show what sort of man Old Hickory was. General Jackson practiced law at Salisbury after he removed from his native State of South Carolina. The office where he conducted his legal business stood originally in the corner of the lot on which Mr. Boyden's hospitable home now stands. It was taken to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893, and was there destroyed by fire. The story told by Mr. Boyden is that when Mr. Parton was gathering material for his "Life" of Jackson, he visited Salisbury and asked if there was any one still living there who knew General Jackson, and was told that an old colored woman who had waited on the general when he was a resident of Salisbury, was still living. Mr. Parton found her and asked if she had known General Jackson, and what sort of a man he was, and she replied: "Oh, yah sah, I knew Gintal Jackson berry, berry well, and I tell yer he was mighty likely man. I used to wait on him every day and in de mornin' he put in mo' ob de time runnin' horse races, playin' cyards, and practicin' wid a pistol. Yah, sah, Gintal Jackson was mighty likely man, I tell yer. This is not all that Mr. Parton's witness told him; but it is as much as should be put in print. And nothing that he did, however wicked and unchristian, affected his great service to his country. "The generality of mankind" is very much like the rest of mankind.

**THE COMMENTATOR**

A very dangerous counterfeit \$10 gold certificate is announced. Scarcely of the real ones is certainly calculated to justify the "dangerous."

**NEW NAME ASKED FOR PLAYGROUND**

Columbia Heights Citizens Declare Mt. Pleasant Reservation Is in Their Territory.

Does a change of address necessitate a change of name? That is a question which the District Commissioners and the department of playgrounds must answer to the Columbia Heights Citizens' Association.

In a letter addressed to the Commissioners of the District by the recreation and amusement committee of the Columbia Heights Citizens' Association a request is made to have the name of the Mt. Pleasant playground changed to "Columbia Heights" playground, because, it is alleged, the place being at Fourteenth street and Park road on the southeast corner, is within Columbia Heights limits. The letter from the citizens' body is signed by J. Clinton Hiatt, secretary.

When the matter was referred to Mrs. Susan R. Rhodes, supervisor of playgrounds, she stated that the playground had formerly been on the other side of Fourteenth street, on land which was then in Mt. Pleasant, and was loaned to the District for playground purposes, but has since been used for the erection of residences. When the playground was removed to its present site on the other side of the line "the old name was retained."

What action will be taken on the matter has not been learned. It is considered probable that the department of playgrounds will place no objection in the way of the change proposed.

Officers of the Columbia Heights Association, in addition to Mr. Hiatt, who would advance three millions (\$3,000,000) to Russia for the further prosecution of the war, are: Frederick J. Rice, president; Daniel W. Edelin, William B. Todd, and Arthur S. Shreve, vice presidents; Arthur C. Houghton, treasurer, and Dr. Edwin C. Roberts, Harry V. Speel, Dr. Henry P. Sawtelle, Dr. Seneca B. Bain, Harry Saye, William G. Boyd, A. Lettewich Sinclair, Adam H. Gaddis, and Charles S. Blundy, executive committee.

**BOSTON QUARTET HEARD**

Rare Treat in Chamber Music Enjoyed at Playhouse.

A rare treat in chamber music was enjoyed by a distinguished audience at the Playhouse yesterday afternoon, when the Boston Quartet, consisting of Sylvain Noack, Otto Roth, Emil Ferir, of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and a "Fellow Traveler," called forth a ripple of laughter for the pleasure it gave. The allegro motto held an exquisite blend of the voices, passages of rare beauty, and particularly striking were the transitions from a spirited lightness to a truly lovely legato.

The two movements of the Brahms string quartet, opus 51, No. 2, were broadly dramatic, with vibrant rich tone, and the rare Brahms harmonies delightfully wrought out. The melody line carried by first violin instrument and then another displayed values truly exquisite in the first movement. The allegro was rich in tone values and in vigor. It was given with entrancing melody, choral depths, and a splendid climax.

The piano, as Mrs. Eustis gave it, was notable, was alluring, particularly in the Dumka (Elegy) with its deep feeling and its exquisite execution. And always the piano tone was liquid and full of color, even giving the sympathetic ensemble. Music of type with rare episodes was this, in which the viola announced the Dvorak theme which was brilliantly developed and resolved again into a richly blended harmony. Moods from a plaint to a Bohemian waltz with compelling rhythm, form episodes of rare tone painting to choral effects as lovely, were fittingly played by all the instruments.

The net proceeds of these concerts go to local charities, to Emergency Hospital, the Home for Incurables, and to Noel House. J. MacB.

**NEWS OF ANACOSTIA**

**Appropriation Sought for Improvement of Minnesota Avenue.**

The committee on streets and highways of the Anacostia Citizens' Association is seeking to have an appropriation included in the District bill for the improvement of Minnesota Avenue from Good Hope road eastward. During the past year a number of handsome residences have been erected along this avenue.

The Ladies' Benevolent Society of St. Teresa's Church met last night and made plans for a social gathering to be held soon to raise funds. The president is Mrs. J. A. Watson, vice president; Mrs. G. B. Bury, recording secretary; Miss Gertrude Farrell, financial secretary, and Mrs. Elizabeth Ermoil, chairman of the sick committee.

Dr. Henry T. Cousin, pastor of the Anacostia Baptist Church, who has been ill several weeks, is again able to be out, and expects to resume his duties next Sunday.

Plans are under way for many enlargements at the Washington Steel and Ordnance Company, which will include new buildings and the installation of new machinery.

**SNATCHED HER PURSE**

Woman, Taken by Surprise, Did Get Glimpse at Thief.

Mrs. Catherine Garst, of 823 Sixth street southwest, was walking in a street between Fourth and a-half and First streets, shortly before 9 o'clock last night, when a man suddenly stepped up from behind her, seized her hand bag and disappeared into an alley off the block.

Mrs. Garst told the police she was taken by surprise and did not get a chance to see the man. The bag contained \$8 in cash and a watch.

**RASPUTIN PLOTTED PEACE WITH BERLIN**

Slain Russian Monk Called an Enemy of the Common People by Ilitor.

NEW YORK, Jan. 4.—"With Rasputin dead, there is no longer a possibility of a separate peace between Russia and Germany. The future of my country now looks brighter than for a long time. He was an enemy of the common people and the common people will profit by his death."

Sergius Michailoff Trufanoff, better known as Ilitor, "mad monk" of Russia, so referred yesterday to the passing of Gregory Rasputin, Russia's "sacred devil," whose body, according to cable dispatches, was found in the River Neva, Sunday.

"He was a constant source of danger because of his great influence over the Emperor," said Ilitor. "He opposed all democratic, progressive movements, and generally persuaded the Emperor to accept his point of view. When measures destined to help the people were adopted it was in spite of Rasputin rather than because of him. I have seen it stated in New York that he was partly responsible for the prohibition of vodka. This was not true. The Emperor himself, influenced perhaps by wiser advisers than the monk, realized that only a sober people can win a great war."

**Monk Favored Separate Peace.**

"What the effect of Rasputin's efforts to bring about a separate peace with Germany would have been ultimately is, of course, problematical. But he did exert such efforts beyond dispute. Rasputin talked with my wife in Petrograd last March. He told her that he either would see the conclusion of a separate peace or the Great War would advance three millions (\$3,000,000) to Russia for the further prosecution of the war."

"Rasputin declared he was pledged to work for peace with Germany. The Emperor, he said, was opposing him, and he would bring him down to our terms."

**WHAT'S ON-PROGRAM**

**Many Interesting Events of Importance Are Scheduled.**

**Today.**

Dance and entertainment, Social Club of the Hebrew Home for the Aged, 415 M street northwest, 8 p. m.

Week of prayer services, with "Missions Among the Heathen" as the subject, and Mrs. Fred Beall and Mrs. Benjamin H. Houghton, under auspices of the Woman's Interdenominational Missionary Union, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 11 a. m.

Meeting, with election of officers and lecture by Rev. Dr. J. H. Houghton, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 8 p. m.

Address, "Crunch-Tyler Home and School Association, Tyler School, Eleventh and G streets southeast, 8 p. m.

Discussion of teachers' pension and retirement law, with Sup. E. L. Thurston, and other speakers, Federal Bureau of Investigation, National Civic Federation, Rauscher's, 8 p. m.

Meeting, Pocahontas Memorial Association, Bellevue Hotel, 4:30 p. m.

Inauguration of officers, National Junior Red Cross, 12 m.

Address, "Photographic Optics," Carl Oswald, at meeting of the Federal Photographic Society of Washington, New National Museum, 8 p. m.

Social, with address by Congressman John G. Edwards, National Memorial Congregational Church, 8 p. m.

Discussion of minimum wage bill, Congressmen John G. Edwards and Benjamin H. Houghton, 125 Rhode Island avenue northeast, 8 p. m.

"The Tragedy of Nan," by Drama League Players, Wilson Normal School, 8:15 p. m.

Meeting, Twentieth Century Club, All Souls' Church, Fourteenth and M streets northwest, 8 p. m.

Address, "Russia, the 'A' Factor," by Dr. Edwin A. Grosvenor, at 8:30 p. m. Bureau of Mines, 12 m.

Meeting, Cathedral Heights Citizens' Association, St. Alban's Parish Hall, 8 p. m.

Meeting, George Washington Post Office, Maryland Trust Government Loan, Riverdale, Md., 4 p. m.

Meetings, Red Merchants' Association, committee, Department store section, 12 m., dry goods section, 1 p. m., and electrical appliances, 2 p. m., in headquarters of association.

Masonic-Naval, No. 4: Hiram, No. 10, M. La Fayette, No. 15, Wm. H. Singleton, No. 20.

Board of Relief—Monthly meeting, 12 m.

Knights of Pythias—Franklin, No. 2, installation, 8 p. m.

Old Fellows—Columbia, No. 19, degree and installation, Covenant, No. 13, installation, Rebekah Lodge—Friendship, No. 8, degree, Red Men—Logan Tribe, 12 m.

Meeting of Senate: Sioux Tribe, No. 13, installation and social meeting.

National Union—W. H. Collins Council.

**Amusements.**

National—"Turn to the Right," 8:15 p. m.

Edwards-Kellerman, in "A Laugh at the Gods," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Keith's-Vaudeville, 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Edwards—"Which One Shall I Marry," 2:15 and 8:15 p. m.

Loew's-Burlesque, 2 and 8 p. m.

Edwards-Burlesque, 2 and 8 p. m.

Loew's Columbia—Motion pictures, 10:30 a. m. to 11 p. m.

Edwards-Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.

Garden-Photoplays, 10 a. m. to 10:30 p. m.

**Tomorrow.**

Meeting, board of governors of the Retail Merchants' Association, in board room, 12 m.

"The Tragedy of Nan," by Drama League Players, Wilson Normal School, 8:15 p. m.

Installation of officers, William B. Cushing, Camp No. 20, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., and Cushing Camp Auxiliary, Pythian Temple, 8 p. m.

Business meeting, Kate Gordon Chapter of the Southern States Suffrage Conference, at home of Mrs. W. N. Stoner, 127 Rhode Island avenue northwest, 8 p. m.

Women's Christian Temperance Union, 12 m.

Orchestra, Stanley Hall, 6:30 p. m.

Discussion, "What Have You Accomplished in Saving?" Housewives' Alliance, in connection with the School of American Preparedness, Theodore Bailey Myers Mason House, 100 Twentieth street northwest, 2:30 p. m.

Twelfth Night, dance, Washington Camp, No. 1, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Raleigh, 8 p. m.

Installation of officers with "Laugural Night" program, National Press Club, 8 p. m.

Annual parish reception, Epiphany Church, 8 p. m.

Conference of National Popular Government League, New Exhibit, 10 a. m.

Annual dance, Business High School Alumni Association, Hotel Lafayette, 8 p. m.

Prayer week services, under auspices of the Woman's Interdenominational Missionary Union, with Mrs. Mary K. Moley and Mrs. Ellis Logan on the program, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Eleventh and G streets northwest, 11 a. m.

Committee meetings, Retail Merchants' Association, furriers section, 12 m., furniture section, 1 p. m., and furriers' section, 2 p. m., in headquarters.

Masonic—Columbia, No. 2: Lebanon, No. 7, F. C.

Royal Arch Chapters—Grand Chapter, School of Instruction.

Knights Templar—Columbia, No. 2, Red Cross.

Star Chapters—Martha, No. 4: Ascension, No. 20: East Gate, No. 21.

Knights of Pythias—Syracusanos, No. 10, installation and price rank, 12 m.

Pythian Sisters—Rathbone Temple, No. 8, installation.

Old Fellows—Central, No. 1, and Metropolis, No. 16, joint installation of officers by S. G. Taylor, P. G. F.; Phoenix, No. 28, installation.

Encampments—Magenheim, No. 4, installation, Rebekah Lodge—Miriam, No. 4, business.

Red Men—Sioux Tribe, No. 13, installation and social meeting; Mincola Tribe, No. 14, installation and reports of officers; Idaho Council, No. 1, installation and social meeting.

**Don Marquis' Column**

Professors. The Duke of York Removed the cork And tilted up the flagon.

The label read: Treudeutscherrheinerweinmunchengemachte. So now he's on the wagon.

—D. R. L.

**Preface to a Prohibition Treat.**

Nation-wide prohibition, when it comes . . . and the little book to which this is a preface proves that it is on the way . . . will be a grand good thing.

It will bring back the romance into drinking. . . . At present there is no thrill of adventure to be had from walking into a bar room and ordering a drink; there is as much to be got out of going into the postoffice and buying a stamp. . . .

It is true that the bar room has its attractions: there is the pleasurable physical glow, suffusing the human innards, that comes from the drink itself; there is the mental excitement, and there is the psychic stimulation. But these attractive things are often balanced by depression; and the attraction of sociability down in the licensed saloon is balanced by the certainty that one will meet bores there; bar room bores whom one must suffer or go to some trouble to dodge. The bar room, as at present constituted, has almost as many drawbacks as recommendations. . . .

But when prohibition comes, and barrooms are abolished, and one must seek out a blind pig, drinking will assume a different and a more wholesome aspect. In addition to the pleasure of drinking there will be the seat of disobeying the law, defying the constituted authorities, flouting the will of the majority. . . .

Men who drink now merely from habit will find a new thrill in it when it is forbidden. . . .

Something that is as dull as duty to them will suddenly become a delight once more through being surrounded with difficulties and hazards. Prohibition will bind with a new warp of color the drab wool of alcoholism. . . .

Especially to boys and young men who are not yet drinkers will liquor appear when once it has been outlawed. . . .

"The adolescent male of the human species dwells amidst perpetual mental and spiritual excitement, not able from moment to moment to determine whether he would rather be a picturesque criminal or a religious hero. The thing he does not want to be is the thing which he perceives the majority of his contemporaries elders, whose instincts for protective coloring has made them neutral and negative, have become. . . .

The youth seeks for a gleam of poetry in existence; he hunts for glamour; he craves initiation into mysteries, Eleusinian or any other. He likes anything in the nature of a secret meaning, anything with a conspiratorial look about it; the blind pig will furnish him with just enough of the tang and flavor of adventure to capture him; he will conquer his natural antipathy to the villainous leavens served in such places and learn to drink them even if they burn holes in his neck going down. . . .

And is it not desirable that the young man, during the formative period of his life (how could we get along without that phrase "During the formative period of his life?") . . . should enjoy the moral advantages to be derived from association with older men who have steadfastly refused to conform to the laws and conventions which the majorities seek to impose? . . .

This is a question for the moralists; we throw it out for them to grapple with; we can't answer it. . . .

The friendships that will spring up among those who meet each other in blind pigs will be much closer than among those who meet in ordinary licensed saloons. They will be like a little band of brothers. The sense that they are all outlaws together will induce them into an intense spiritual intimacy each one with all the others. . . .

It is always so with outlaws and idealists; with those who oppose themselves to the ruling power for the most noble reasons, and those who rebel for the most unselfish of reasons. Rebellion is the essence of the bond. . . .

There are no stories lovelier in all history than the tales of the noble affection and faith among the founders and leaders of religious movements persecuted by a majority. The knowledge that they are opposed to the majority draws them together no less than the fervor of their belief. The idealist and the outlaw discover a fellowship, shot through with emotional color and heats and vibrations not possible to us calm, unshaken respectabilities. . . .

Speaking personally, it is only our native conservatism and ingrained reactionary habit of mind which prevents us from envying in this respect certain radical groups, for revolutionists are often both outlaws and idealists, and therefore doubly susceptible to spiritual excitements and exaltations. . . .

When prohibition comes, and brings us the blind pig, there will follow . . . but no. Prophecy (as we seem to have read somewhere) is dangerous. . . .

Perhaps there is an unconscious selfishness in our advocacy of nationwide prohibition. . . .

Ourself, we have lost interest in drinking. It seems to us useless; there isn't any fun in it. But, if prohibition came, our interest would undoubtedly revive. We would find a fresh pleasure in it, and it may be this consideration, and not any desire for the betterment of the world in general, which makes us wish for prohibition. . . .

Perhaps we are not sure. A person can make shrewd or lucky guesses now and then concerning the motives of others. But what does any man know about himself? DON MARQUIS.